

CHAPTER: V TECHNICAL ELIGIBILITY	SECTION: 10 SUITABILITY OF HOME	COMAR: 07.03.03.07
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REQUIREMENTS

- A. Ensure, to the extent possible, that the home in which the child and parent or other caretaker relative lives is suitable
- B. When there is reason to suspect that the home is not suitable:
 - 1. Refer the case to Protective Services or another appropriate service unit within the local department, according to local procedures
 - 2. Note the referral in the narrative
 - 3. Place documentation from services in the case record when received
- C. Do not delay processing the application or deny or close a case because there is reason to think the home is not suitable

DEFINING SUITABLE

- A. “Suitable” means that there is no reason to suspect of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the child
- B. Indications of abuse and neglect of a child or adult include:
 - 1. Malnutrition
 - 2. Alcohol or drug abuse
 - 3. Serious emotional problems
 - 4. Untreated illnesses
 - 5. Community or school complaints
 - 6. Homelessness

VERIFICATION

- Child Protective Services will provide written documentation when a child is removed from the home

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EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ms. Ross comes for her recertification on February 16. She receives assistance for herself and two daughters, Kelly and Kandy who are 3 and 4 years old. Both girls are very thin and dirty with matted hair. Ms. Ross is unsteady on her feet and keeps dozing off during the interview. Neither of her daughters has been to the doctor in the last year.

- Refer the case for services
- Set a 745 alert for 30 days to follow up on whether Ms. Ross is receiving services
- Impose PPI disallowances (\$50) after 30 days if Ms. Ross is not cooperating with services or has not brought proof of the children's health check-up

Example 2. Cathy Case-Manager receives a complaint that Ms. Lurvey's children are not in school and are left alone every night while she is out partying. The Lurvey children are 6 and 7 years old. There are 2 PPI disallowances and the case has been closed several times for failure to meet the work requirements.

- Refer to services
- Set a 745 alert to follow up if Ms. Lurvey is receiving services

Note: Local departments have procedures for referring cases to services, which may include:

- supervisory or management approval
- contact with the customer prior to referral

Follow local department procedures